



February 22, 2018

Justices of the Arizona Supreme Court  
1501 West Washington Street  
#411  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Justices:

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry is in support of the petition for amendments to Arizona Supreme Court Rule 31 submitted by the Honorable David B. Gass.

As representatives of businesses throughout Arizona, we agree with Judge Gass' assessment that Rule 31 in its current form puts business owners at a disadvantage in a legal setting by forcing them to pay for an active State Bar representative in a courtroom setting, instead of providing a more cost-efficient option to represent themselves, should a situation call for it. As Judge Gass points out, Rule 31 has not fully evolved to acknowledge the self-representation capabilities of Arizona's corporate entities. The minor changes presented by Judge Gass are a step toward modernization that improve access for small business and corporate litigants.

The proposed rule change aligns with the current Court's mission to create clear and simplified rules to ensure justice is accessible to all parties in the judicial process, while also lessening the burden imposed by litigation on parties, and alleviating concerns of corporate entities from the unauthorized practice of law rule.

For these reasons, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry urge you to support amendments to Rule 31 of this Court's rules, as proposed.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Hamer".

Glenn Hamer  
President & CEO